

involvement, and interagency coordination.

### Scoping

A copy of this notice and additional public information will be sent to interested parties to initiate scoping. All parties are invited to participate in the scoping process by identifying any additional concerns, issues, studies, and alternatives that should be considered. A scoping meeting will be announced. Project effects on wetlands and their importance to the ecology of the area and the potential for the project and project road to induce development have been identified as significant issues. The DEIS is scheduled for release in January 2001.

**Guy R. McConnell,**

*Chief, Environmental Resources Section.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Corps of Engineers; Department of the Army

#### Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report for a Proposed Ecosystem Restoration of Middle Creek in Lake County, CA

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Sacramento District (Federal); California Department of Water Resources, Division of Flood Management (State); Lake County, California (local).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The objectives of this project are to restore wetland habitat and enhance wildlife and fish habitat. Secondary objectives include preserving existing resources, improving lake water quality, enhancing recreation and tourism, reducing flood risk, and reducing maintenance cost and responsibility for Middle Creek along Rodman Slough. The intent of this project is to restore the ecosystem functions of a historic wetland at the mouth of Middle Creek.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and EIS/EIR can be answered by Jerry Fuentes at (916) 557-6706 or by mail at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, ATTN: CESP-K-PD-R, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, California 95814-2922.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### 1. Proposed Action

The Corps, in cooperation with the state (California Department of Water Resources and the local sponsor (Lake County)), is conducting a feasibility investigation on the ecosystem restoration measures identified during the reconnaissance phase and described in the Middle Creek Ecosystem Restoration Study dated May, 1997. This ecosystem restoration investigation proposes to restore the wetland ecosystem functions associated with the historical wetland that existed at the mouth of Middle Creek.

### 2. Alternatives

The feasibility report will address an array of alternatives. Alternatives analyzed during the feasibility investigation will be a combination of one or more ecosystem restoration measures identified during the reconnaissance phase; additional measures may be considered. These alternative measures include expanding the natural floodplain, restoring open water and marsh habitat, restoring seasonal wetland and riparian habitat, enhancing upland habitat, plant marsh and riparian vegetation, excavating sloughs, channels, ponds, expanding lake shoreline and shallow aquatic habitat, and reducing height of levees no longer used for flood control.

- a. No Action. There will be no ecosystem restoration measures implemented for Middle Creek, Lake County.
- b. Expand the Natural Floodplain.
- c. Restore Robinson Lake from Bloody Island to Clear Lake.
- d. Restore Robinson Lake from Reclamation Road to Clear Lake.

### 3. Scoping Process

a. The project study plan provides for public scoping meeting and comment. The Corps has initiated a process of involving concerned individuals, local, state, and Federal agencies.

b. Significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIS/EIR include appropriate levels of the flood damaged reduction, adverse affects on vegetation and wildlife resources, special-status species, esthetics, cultural resources, recreation, and cumulative impacts of related projects in the study area.

c. The Corps will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report as an appendix to the EIS/EIS.

d. A 45-day public review period will be provided for individuals and

agencies to review and comment on the EIS/EIR. All interested parties should respond to this notice and provide a current address if they wish to be notified of the EIS/EIR circulation.

### 4. Public Meetings

The first of a series of public scoping meetings will be held on August 12, 1999, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Robinson Rancheria, Tribal Community Hall, 1545 East Highway 20, Upper Lake, California.

### 5. Availability

The EIS/EIR is scheduled to be available for public review and comment late in calendar year 2001.

Dated: July 29, 1999.

**Michael J. Walsh,**

*COL, EN, Commanding.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.019A, 84.021A, 84.022A]

### Office of Postsecondary Education: Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship Program, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program, and Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2000

#### Purpose of Programs

(a) The Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship Program offers opportunities to faculty members of institutions of higher education for research and study in modern foreign languages and area studies.

(b) The Group Projects Abroad Program provides grants to support overseas projects in training, research, and curriculum development in modern foreign languages and area studies for groups of teachers, students, and faculty engaged in a common endeavor. Projects may include short-term seminars, curriculum development or group research or study. The program does not support advanced intensive language projects under this competition.

(c) The Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship Program provides opportunities for graduate students to engage in full-time dissertation research abroad in modern foreign languages and area studies.

#### Eligible Applicants

(a) Institutions of higher education are eligible to participate in the Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship Program